

Wth Suard with The Baroness de Hügel's
kind regards. 8

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In Memoriam of my beloved Husband
written by Lady Georgiana Fultou.

Cambridge 6th November 1884.

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In Memoriam.



HIS EXCELLENCY

THE BARON CHARLES VON HÜGEL,

Obiit June 2, 1870.



In Memoriam.



HARLES ALEXANDER ANSELM VON HÜGEL,—Grand Cross of the Order of Leopold and Knight of the First Class of the Austrian Order of the Iron Crown, decorated with the Commemorative Medal of the Campaigns of 1813 and 1814, Grand Cross of the Belgian Order of Leopold, of Christ of Portugal, of Our Lady of Guadalupe of Mexico, of St. Joseph of Tuscany, of the Pontifical Order

of Gregory the Great and of the Constantinian Order of St. George of Parma, Commander of the Order of the Danebrog, and of the Swedish Order of Vasa, Knight of the Pontifical Order of Christ, of the Prussian Royal Order of the Red Eagle, Member of the Academy of Sciences, and Honorary President of the Horticultural Society at Vienna, Doctor of Civil Law of the University of Oxford, decorated with the great Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in England, Honorary Member of that Society and of various other Scientific Societies in London, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Florence, Ratisbon, Dresden, Utrecht, Hamburg, &c. &c., Privy Councillor to His Imperial Royal and Apostolic Majesty, and his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary on the retired list,—departed this life on the 2nd of June, 1870, in Brussels, at the age of 75, after receiving all the rites of the Church, and leaving behind him a memory singularly dear to his family and numerous friends, and deeply honoured by his countrymen. While his domestic virtues and amiable qualities won the hearts of all those intimately acquainted with him, his uncompromising integrity, devoted loyalty, and ardent patriotism secured to him the regard and esteem of his Sovereign and of his contemporaries. But the respect and sympathy which his character and acquirements inspired were by no means confined to his native land. Those feelings extended to every country where science is cultivated, and the

pursuit and progress of knowledge held in honour. A brief sketch of the life and labours of this eminent man will not therefore prove uninteresting to English readers.

THE BARON CHARLES VON HÜGEL was born at Ratisbon on the 25th of April, 1795. He studied the Law at Heidelberg, and in 1811 entered the Austrian Army, in which he held the rank of Captain, and was with the Allied troops when they made their entry into Paris. He was then attached to the Mission sent to the King of Sweden to negotiate his Abdication, and afterwards travelled through all the northern kingdoms of Europe. Subsequently he entered the Fifth Regiment of Austrian Hussars, and went with it to Italy and the South of France, where he filled the post of "Commandant de Place" at Arles and Tarascon. In the year 1821 he accompanied the expedition to Naples, and remained there as Military Attaché to the Austrian Embassy till 1824. In that year he left the Army, and devoted himself to the study of the Natural Sciences and to the necessary preparations for a great scientific journey through Europe to the East Indies. It was in 1830 that he set out on his travels, beginning by England, and thence crossing France to embark at Toulon. After a short stay in Greece and Crete, he landed at Alexandria, whence he sailed to Cyprus, and then, stopping on his way at Antioch, proceeded into the desert in quest of the

site of Palmyra. The cholera, which was raging in that district, did not deter the ardent traveller from visiting the ruins of Baalbek, ascending Mount Lebanon, and passing through the Valley of Beshorrac, where he and his servant were both attacked by the prevalent disease. The latter died, and Hügel, weakened by illness, had to pursue his journey alone. He embarked at Beyrout, and, after several expeditions through Syria and Palestine, he went by Suez and Aden to India, and arrived at Bombay in 1832. This city he made his head-quarters, while he explored the ancient kingdom of the Mahrattas. The rainy season, an attack of jungle-fever, together with a wound inflicted by the bite of a dog, obliged him to retrace his steps and somewhat alter his plans. He travelled through the Deccan, visited Beeja-poor, so rich in ancient monuments, and, passing through Goa and Mysore, ascended the Blue Mountains, and, by Coimbatoor and the coast of Malabar, proceeded to Cochin, to Travancore, to Cape Comorin, to Tuticorin, famous for its pearl fisheries, and thence went to Ceylon, where he remained four months, exploring the island in every direction. He then travelled on to the coast of Coromandel, visited Tranquebar, Pondicherry, Carricall, and Madras, and in October 1833 sailed to the Indian Archipelago and New Holland with Captain Lambert, of the frigate "Alligator;" thence to New Zealand, Manilla, Macao, Canton,

and Calcutta, and then onward to the north of India. After traversing Bengal and the Alpine districts of the Himalayas, he passed along the borders of Tibet into Kashmir as far as Attock, on the Indus. In the year 1835 he went back through the kingdom of the Sikhs to Delhi, and across a wild uninhabited district to Bombay, where he had landed four years before. After spending there a part of the year 1836, he returned to England by the Cape of Good Hope and St. Helena.

The whole of this journey occupied six years, and its results as regards science, whether historical, botanical, or ethnographical, were very important. The vast and splendid collections made during the course of these long and arduous travels were presented by the Baron von Hügel to the Imperial and Royal Museum of Natural History and the Court Library in Vienna. They consisted of thirty-two thousand objects in the Natural Science section alone, and comprised, besides an immense variety and extraordinary number of rare and precious coins, Eastern idols, and sacrificial utensils, in silver, bronze, and ivory, musical instruments, superb pieces of armour, valuable stuffs from India, China, and Kashmir, Egyptian curiosities, beautiful and costly Indian and Chinese ornaments, many hundred fine drawings, interesting manuscripts, and twelve thousand curious notes.

The number of plants collected by the Baron von Hügel, principally in Australia, New Zealand, and Kashmir, amounted to upwards of twelve thousand, comprising several very rare and many new species. The great majority of these plants were scientifically examined and descriptions published during the years 1837-40 in the following works, viz. "Enumeratio plantarum Hügelianarum," "Decadis novarum stirpium Musei Vindobonensis," "Annals of the Viennese Museum," "Botanical Archives," &c. &c. Baron von Hügel also collected and brought back from his travels more than three thousand different kinds of seeds, the greater portion of which were carefully raised in his own gardens and were immediately eagerly sought for by all the principal floriculturists throughout Europe as most valuable and complete novelties.

The energy and ardour with which he pursued his researches is exemplified by the following anecdote. He was on one occasion bent on procuring a specimen of a rare plant, only to be found in a spot which a conflagration in the surrounding jungle rendered apparently inaccessible. Undaunted by the danger, the daring traveller rode full gallop through the burning waste, and succeeded in carrying off the treasure he was seeking. The wild inhabitants of the district were so astonished at this feat that they declared the man who could achieve it must be a God.

Baron von Hügel wrote and published various important

narratives of his travels and scientific observations, the most remarkable of which is an elaborate work, with maps, on "Kashmir and the Kingdom of the Sikhs," enriched with beautiful illustrations, and full of original matter. He published also in 1840 a scientific work on the Basin of Kabul, and in 1859 a work entitled "The Philippines and the Islands of the Pacific Ocean." But these volumes, interesting as they are, describe but a very small portion of this eminent man's travels. Notices on the subject from his own pen have appeared from time to time in the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society in London and in those of learned Societies abroad. Scientific men in various countries have noticed his labours and described his collections. His reputation as a man of profound, extensive, and experimental knowledge in various sciences, and especially in Botany, is so generally known, that it is not necessary to dwell upon it any further.

But the Baron von Hügel was not only a traveller and a student: he was also a man of the world in the good and noble sense of the word, a brave soldier, an able diplomatist, an accomplished linguist, and an agreeable and popular member of society. When he returned from his travels, he fixed his residence in his beautiful villa of Hietzing, near Vienna, where for many years he was surrounded with every object that could charm the eye and please the fancy of a man of taste and refinement, passionately fond of the

beauties of nature and of art. Honoured by his Sovereign, beloved by his friends, and visited by strangers from every part of the world, whom he always welcomed with the most cordial hospitality, his time was divided between society, literary pursuits, and the practical study of Botany and horticulture. Around him sprang up the various and numerous shrubs and plants which he had brought back from distant countries. Rare collections of foreign birds and insects, works of art, ingenious devices, graceful fountains, and flowers of every land, formed a scene of beauty, fairy-like in its loveliness, and bearing in all its details the impress of a mind that took pleasure in all the beautiful creations of God, and loved to impart those enjoyments to others. Three times a week these beautiful gardens, with their splendid hot-houses, containing a large collection of rare orchideous plants, were thrown open to the public. Thus the poorest as well as the highest in the land could resort to them for instruction or for amusement. The present Emperor of Austria and his brother, the ill-fated Emperor Maximilian, often and often in their childhood visited Hietzing, and always with delight. It was during that period of tranquillity that the Baron von Hügel founded the Vienna Horticultural Society, which under his active and intelligent presidency increased and prospered rapidly. The first exhibition of flowers in that capital took place, under his auspices, in his own grounds, and he only

resigned his office of President in 1850, when he was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Grand Ducal Court at Florence. Up to his death he retained the honorary presidency of the Society, which owed to him its origin, existence, and development, and annually awarded a prize of twenty ducats to its flower exhibitions.

Between the year 1847 and the date above referred to, when the Baron von Hügel re-entered on his diplomatic career and proceeded to Italy, many changes occurred in the tenor of his life, which must be briefly mentioned here. In August 1847 a young guest came to his fairy abode, whose heart, after a very short lapse of time, was entirely won by the host, whose merits, great attractions, and affection made her overlook completely the vast difference of age existing between them, and in her earliest girlhood she gladly accepted the hand of Baron von Hügel. During an engagement of four years, and then a wedded life of nearly twenty years, she devoted herself to him with a strength of attachment which never experienced the shadow of a change, and leaves her now as desolate in her widowhood as she was happy in her marriage. This young lady was the daughter of the brave General Farquharson, one of the time-honoured veterans of the Anglo-Indian army, and the niece of Sir James Outram, a man of no mean fame in our contemporary annals. The Austrian nobleman and the young Scotch girl were affianced at Verona in 1847, but, owing to

the various complications occasioned by the impending revolutionary outbursts then threatening Europe, were not married till the spring of 1851, when the Baron von Hügel was Austrian Minister at Florence.

Many had been the trials and vicissitudes of the preceding years. Events which no loyal-hearted man or true patriot, whatever his line of politics might be, could witness unmoved, determined the Baron von Hügel to abandon the studious pursuits and pleasant leisure of his beloved villa, and to throw himself again into the business and turmoil of the world. He accordingly took up his residence at Vienna, and entered with energy and zeal into all the agitating political affairs of that eventful period. His fidelity towards those whom he had once admitted to his friendship was one of his most striking characteristics, and he had many opportunities during his long life of proving that his chivalrous ideas on this point were no mere theory. When Prince Metternich in 1848 was threatened with danger and death by an infuriated mob, he rescued him from their hands at the imminent peril of his life, and drove him, concealed in his own carriage, with calm courage at a foot's pace through crowds clamouring for his blood, who never suspected the presence of the Ex-Minister in an equipage which manifested so little haste. From the 13th of March, for more than a month, they were in daily, hourly, danger—they remained for days in various places concealed

for safety, and they travelled through towns where a price was set on the Prince's head, and where both he and his deliverer would certainly have been torn to pieces had they been discovered. The whole heavy responsibility and fearful risk of this perilous escape, this long terrible journey fraught with danger at every step, rested on the Baron von Hügel, and when at last he conducted the Prince and Princess in safety to England he merely said, "he considered it a matter of simple duty to risk every sacrifice of life and property rather than let a hair of that honoured head be injured." Having re-entered the Austrian army, he made the campaign of Italy with Marshal Radetzky in 1849, was sent at different times on important missions to the Pope and to the King of Naples, assisted at the siege of Leghorn, and entered it with the Austrian troops. After the return of the Grand Duke, he was named Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Florence, and remained there till the 27th of April, 1859, when he left with the exiled Sovereign for Vienna. During those ten years his firmness, gentleness, and unvarying courtesy obtained for him the respect and regard of all parties, even of those most opposed to him in politics. He had been named Privy Councillor in 1855, and left the military service with the rank of Major in 1860. In the course of the same year he was made Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Brussels, where he remained until

1867, when he retired on account of his health. Diplomacy had been one of the traditions of his family, both his father, Baron Aloys von Hügel, a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Stephen, and his brother, Baron Clemens von Hügel, having rendered distinguished services in that line to the Austrian Empire. As to Baron Charles von Hügel, in whatever capacity he acted, or whatever position he occupied, devotion to the Sovereign and the country he loved, and a constant desire to promote everything that could tend to benefit humanity, were the ruling motives and objects of his life. One little trait deserves to be recorded as illustrating the extreme tenderness and delicacy of his manly and vigorous nature. He had a special love for little children, who were on their side irresistibly attracted towards him, and seemed to feel an instinctive confidence under his powerful tender protection. His greatest delight was to plan little pleasures for them, and he could command the lively, unflagging interest of children for hours together with the most graceful tales of fairies and flowers, under the imagery of which were veiled the beautiful, deep, and mystic thoughts with which his great and eminently poetic mind was full.

The great modesty and utter absence of all self-consciousness in one who was certainly eminent for his great and profound erudition was very remarkable. No stranger would ever guess from his conversation either the extent of his vast

learning or the very important part he had played in scientific research. The idea of showing off his talents, or drawing attention to himself and his own achievements, never seemed to cross his mind. Occasionally some superficial talker would discourse before him on subjects which had been the study of his life without his uttering a word, yet this reluctance to speak only concerned himself: he lent the most ready sympathy to the interests of everyone around him, and it is extraordinary that notwithstanding his extreme modesty and reserve he left an impression on those who came in contact with him which time and circumstances never effaced. Casual acquaintances whom he met with on his travels speak and write of him as of a great, good, and most amiable man, whose memory is as fresh and vivid in their minds as though they had seen him but yesterday, and many ties thus casually formed years ago remained unbroken till his death.

But the most precious of all the many fond memories connected with his life to those who knew him best is that of the unfailing charity with which, up to the hour of his death, he regarded the actions and motives of others. He acted up to the words of the Apostle, "Charity beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things." It was not only that no unkindly word ever passed his lips, but no harsh, suspicious, or uncharitable thought ever embittered his soul. He believed in the goodness of others with the faith of a large

and generous heart, and when actual proofs of baseness, falsehood, or ingratitude were forced upon him he still hoped on with patient trust in the existence of redeeming points hidden for a time, but which would some day come to light.

Throughout his whole long and eventful life all he possessed was poured out with lavish hand in the service of his country and friends; he seemed to have a happy incapacity for seeing the selfish and petty intrigues which often crossed his path: even when the political horizon grew dark, and the great ingratitude of those who owed him most saddened his declining years with many disappointments and keen sufferings, it may be truly said, "he learnt from them to love and to forgive." This extreme charity in his judgments was the more remarkable from his own uncompromising fidelity to his religious and political principles and his devoted loyalty to those he had once called his friends, or to any who had ever rendered the smallest service to him or his. He would rather have died a thousand times than done the things which he forbore to judge severely in another. There was in his soul a sweetness, a serenity, a calm imperturbable dignity, and an absolute inability to accustom itself to the rough, base, deceitful ways of earth, which makes those who most keenly mourn his loss thankful to think of him at home in the free air of Heaven, where, when all things else have passed away, Charity remaineth for ever !

During the years which he spent in England after his retirement from public life, years marked by the severest bodily sufferings entailing privations of the heaviest sort on one whose mind and heart were as alive as ever to the interests and pursuits which had filled his existence, he evinced a patience, sweetness of temper, and calm resignation which touched and edified all who approached him. He exactly fulfilled the duties of his religion. He practised to the highest degree those two great Christian virtues—perfect submission to God's will and unbounded charity towards his fellow-creatures in its various branches; for he was generous to the poor, generous to his enemies, kind and forgiving to all; and has left behind him an honoured and unblemished name, of which his children may well be proud. His ardent desire had been to end his life in his native land. He left London at the end of May 1870 in an almost dying state, calmly looking death in the face, prepared to meet it whenever and wherever God might choose to call him. It was not the Divine will that he should reach his home; but in Brussels, a city where he was honoured and esteemed, and had many friends, he died, in the arms of his devoted wife, and rendered up to his Maker his gentle, kind, and noble spirit.

Much more than this little Memoir can comprise might be said of his merits as a man of science, a soldier, and a diplomatist, of the great value of his labours in the world of

science, and his worldly successes; but the highest of the praises which those who knew and loved him best could utter is contained in these simple words: He never was known to say an unkind word to or of any one.

Requiescat in Pace.

